

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 /014 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/BR:TSHUGART:KO

APPROVED BY ARA/BR:RWZIMMERMANN

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R 140040Z NOV 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

INFO AMCONSUL SALVADOR

AMCONSUL BELEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BR, CPRS

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR CUSTOMS ASSISTANCE: TELEVIDEO CORP.

1. RALPH SMITH, PRESIDENT OF TELEVIDEO CORP. (THE INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTOR FOR UNIVERSAL FILMS), HOUSTON TEXAS, HAS REQUESTED ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING THE RELEASE FROM SALVADOR CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES OF 70 MOTION PICTURES ON VIDEO CASSETTE TAPES, 2 VIDEO TAPE MACHINES AND A TELEVISION SET USED TO SHOW THE FILMS. THESE ITEMS, WHICH ACCORDING TO SMITH WERE SEIZED IN JUNE WITHOUT EXPLANATION, WERE DESTINED FOR USE ON THE OIL RIG GULF COMMANDER LOCATED OFFSHORE BELEM. TOTAL VALUE OF TAPES AND EQUIPMENT IS \$38,000. RIG IS OWNED BY THE ATLANTIC-PACIFIC MARINE CORP. AND LEASED TO PETROBRAS.

2. SMITH INFORMED US HE HAS REPEATEDLY CONTACTED BRAZILIAN EMBASSY HERE AND WAS TOLD BY AMBASSADOR ARAUJO CASTRO THAT 5 MESSAGES HAD BEEN SENT TO ITAMARATY ON HIS COMPLAINT. EMBASSY TOLD HIM ITAMARATY CLAIMED TELEVIDEO CORP. HAD NOT PREPARED PAPERWORK CORRECTLY BUT DID NOT RESPOND TO SMITH'S REQUEST FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

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AS TO WHAT HE COULD DO TO COMPLY WITH CUSTOMS REQUIRE-

MENTS.

3. SMITH SAID HE OFFERED TO GIVE TV SET TO SALVADOR CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES IF THEY WOULD RELEASE TAPES, SINCE THEY APPARENTLY ACCUSED RIG REPS OF TRYING TO SMUGGLE TV INTO THE COUNTRY FOR RESALE.

4. SMITH SAID HE HAD PREVIOUSLY SHIPPED SIMILAR ITEMS THROUGH SALVADOR WITHOUT INCIDENT. HE SUSPECTS AUTHORITIES WANT PAYOFF, WHICH HE REFUSES TO PAY.

5. REQUEST EMBASSY/CONSULATE SALVADOR MAKE APPROACH AT EITHER ITAMARATY OR SALVADOR CUSTOMS, AS POSTS DEEM MOST APPROPRIATE AND -- ASSUMING TELEVIDEO HAS COMPLIED WITH STANDARD CUSTOMS PROCEDURES -- REQUEST PROMPT RELEASE OF SUBJECT ITEMS. SHOULD POSTS DETERMINE TELEVIDEO NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH GOB REGULATIONS, PLEASE INFORM US OF NECESSARY REMEDIAL STEPS AND WE WILL ADVISE SMITH OF SAME. KISSINGER

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Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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To: BRASILIA
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